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Viewing cable 08BOGOTA1223, GOC OK'S FRENCH MEDICAL MISSION FOR INGRID--AWAITS \

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08BOGOTA1223**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08BOGOTA1223	2008-04-02 21:05	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Bogota

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.elespectador.com/wikileaks>

VZCZCXYZ0002
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBO #1223/01 0932105
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 022105Z APR 08
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2203
INFO RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE 8123
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE 0178
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE 6046
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE 1444
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 1271
RUEHQQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE 6700
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RHEHNNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RHMFIUU/FBI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RHMFIISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

148293 2008-04-02 21:05:00 08BOGOTA1223 Embassy Bogota CONFIDENTIAL 08BOGOTA1178 VZCZCXYZ0002\
OO RUEHWEB\
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DE RUEHBO #1223/01 0932105\
ZNY CCCCC ZZH\
O 022105Z APR 08\
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA\
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2203\
INFO RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE 8123\
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RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE 1444\
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RUEHQD/AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE 6700\
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE\
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE\
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE\
RHMFIIU/FBI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE\
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE\
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 001223 \
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/02/2018 \
TAGS: [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [PREF](#) [PHUM](#) [CASC](#) [MOPS](#) [FR](#) [CO](#)

SUBJECT: GOC OK'S FRENCH MEDICAL MISSION FOR INGRID--AWAITS \
FARC RESPONSE \
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REF: BOGOTA 1178 \
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Classified By: Political Counselor John Creamer \
Reason 1.4 (b and d) \
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SUMMARY \
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11. (C) President Uribe approved a request from French \
President Sarkozy to deploy a medical "humanitarian mission" \
to Colombia to save FARC hostage Ingrid Betancourt. Uribe \
did not provide details, but said the GOC would halt military \
operations once the French provided the coordinates for the \
operation. The ICRC confirmed it is not participating in \
the mission, since there has been no response from the FARC; \
they would participate only with approval from all parties. \
XXXXXXXXXXXX told us Swiss official Jean \
Pierre Gontard reported on March 28 that Betancourt is alive \
but refusing to eat. Sarkozy reportedly sent a private \
message to the FARC that the group would remain on terrorism \
lists "forever" if Betancourt dies. End summary. \
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URIBE APPROVES FRENCH HUMANITARIAN MISSION \
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12. (U) President Alvaro Uribe approved on April 1 a request \
from President Nicolas Sarkozy to deploy a French medical \
"humanitarian mission" to Colombia to treat FARC \
hostages--most notably Ingrid Betancourt. The French \
reportedly deployed a hospital plane to the region to be \
ready for the mission. Uribe announced immediately after \
taking a phone call from Sarkozy that the GOC would \
facilitate the French humanitarian mission due to numerous \
reports on Betancourt's failing health (reftel). Uribe also \
said the GOC would "suspend all military actions" as soon as \
it received coordinates for the French mission. Sarkozy \
expressed his gratitude for the quick approval. \
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ICRC AWAITS FARC RESPONSE \
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13. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX told us the ICRC is not participating in the French medical \
mission, because there has been no response so far from the \
FARC. For security reasons, the ICRC will not support \
missions without the approval of all parties involved. \
XXXXXXXXXXXX added that the French and Swiss hope to use the \
mission to re-establish high-level contacts with the FARC, \
but she questioned whether a high-profile, public effort was \
the best way to achieve this. \
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GOC MOTIVATIONS \
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14. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX told us decree 880 offering a GOC release of FARC prisoners as part \
of a de facto humanitarian exchange reflected GOC concern \
that Ingrid may be dead or dying, and not renewed prospects \
for obtaining her freedom. The GOC offer was not linked to \
new efforts by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez or recently \
released FARC hostage and former Senator Luis Eladio Perez. \
XXXXXXXXXXXX said the GOC issued the decree to increase \
international pressure on the FARC and to deflect blame if \
she dies. \
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15. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX said the GOC also wanted to see how the FARC's \
leadership and decision making process would react after \
Secretariat member Raul Reyes' death. In particular, the GOC \
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SIPDIS \

wanted to see if the FARC would maintain demands for a \ demilitarized zone (despeje). XXXXXXXXXXXX speculated that the \ lack of an immediate FARC response reiterating its despeje \ demand might indicate the GOC is dealing with a new, if not \ kinder and gentler, FARC. \

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WAITING FOR FARC RESPONSE \

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16. (C) The FARC has not yet responded to the French request, \ but XXXXXXXXXXXX told us Jean Pierre Gontard (Swiss contact with the FARC) claimed to have \ heard from the FARC on March 28 that Ingrid was alive but \ refusing to eat. The FARC are reportedly concerned about her \ attitude and declining health. XXXXXXXXXXXX said Raul Reyes had \

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been Gontard's main FARC contact, but added that the \ Secretariat "owed Gontard a lot," since he arranged for \

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family members of Alfonso Cano, Rodrigo Granda, and Reyes to \ live in Lausanne. \

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17. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX said he met on April 1 with French \ Ambassador Jean Michel Marlaud to discuss Betancourt, but \ noted that the French revealed no new information about her \ condition. They believe her refusal to eat may be a \ calculated risk to pressure the group to release her. The \ French talked "in the abstract" about an international \ medical mission to visit Ingrid, but did not reveal any \ definite plans. Marlaud said Sarkozy had sent a private \ message to the FARC that France would support the group's \ inclusion on the EU terrorist list "forever" if Ingrid died \ in FARC captivity. XXXXXXXXXXXX said Marlaud made it clear the \ French believe only Chavez can obtain Betancourt's freedom. \

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BROWNFIELD \